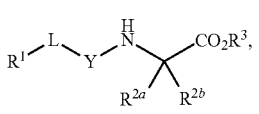
-continued

```
Ser Cys Ala Ala Val Pro Ala Glu Val Ala Arg His His Glu His Ala
        35                  40                  45

Ala Arg Ala Gly Gln Cys Cys Ser Ala Val Val Gln Ala Ile Ala Ala
    50                  55                  60

Pro Val Gly Ala Val Trp Ser Val Val Arg Arg Phe Asp Arg Pro Gln
65                  70                  75                  80

Ala Tyr Lys His Phe Ile Arg Ser Cys Arg Leu Val Asp Asp Gly Gly
                85                  90                  95

Gly Gly Ala Gly Ala Gly Ala Gly Ala Thr Val Ala Val Gly Ser Val
            100                 105                 110

Arg Glu Val Arg Val Val Ser Gly Leu Pro Ala Thr Ser Ser Arg Glu
        115                 120                 125

Arg Leu Glu Ile Leu Asp Asp Glu Arg Arg Val Leu Ser Phe Arg Val
    130                 135                 140

Val Gly Gly Glu His Arg Leu Ala Asn Tyr Arg Ser Val Thr Thr Val
145                 150                 155                 160

His Glu Ala Glu Ala Gly Ala Gly Gly Thr Val Val Val Glu Ser Tyr
                165                 170                 175

Val Val Asp Val Pro Pro Gly Asn Thr Ala Asp Glu Thr Arg Val Phe
            180                 185                 190

Val Asp Thr Ile Val Arg Cys Asn Leu Gln Ser Leu Ala Arg Thr Ala
        195                 200                 205

Glu Arg Leu Ala Leu Ala Leu Ala
    210                 215
```

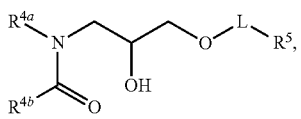
What is claimed is:

1. A method of increasing stress tolerance in a plant, the method comprising contacting the plant with a sufficient amount of a compound to increase stress tolerance in the plant compared to not contacting the plant with the compound;

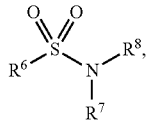
wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of:



(I)



(II)



(III)

and salts thereof, and

wherein

R^1 is an heterocycyl, aryl, or heteroaryl group, optionally substituted with from 1 to 4 R^9 groups;

L is selected from the group consisting of a single bond, —O—, —$(O)_m$—CH_2—, and —$(O)_m$—$CH(R^{10})$—;

m is an integer selected from the group consisting of 0 and 1; wherein if R^1 is 2,5-dichlorophenyl and R^2 is —$(O)_m$—CH_2—, m is 0;

Y is —C(═O)— or —$S(=O)_2$—;

R^{2a} and R^{2b} are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and R^{10}, wherein at most one of R^{2a} or R^{2b} is hydrogen; or, alternatively, R^{2a} and R^{2b} join to form a four- to seven-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring, optionally substituted with from 1 to 4 R^9 groups;

R^3 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, R^{10}, and C_{7-11} arylalkyl, optionally substituted with from 1 to 4 R^9 groups;

R^{4a} and R^{4b} join to form a heteroaryl group, wherein the heteroaryl group is part of a polycyclic group with one or two additional fused carbocyclic, heterocyclic, aryl, or heteroaryl rings; and wherein the polycyclic group is optionally substituted with from 1 to 4 R^9 groups;

R^5 and R^6 are each an aryl or heteroaryl group, optionally substituted with from 1 to 4 R^9 groups;

R^7 is selected from the group consisting of —$NH(R^{11})$, —$NH(CO)(R^{11})$, and R^{11}; or, alternatively, R^7 and R^8 join to form a 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline or 3,4-dihydroquinolin-2(1H)-one ring, wherein said ring is optionally substituted with from 1 to 4 R^9 groups;

R^8 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and R^1, wherein R^8 is hydrogen only if R^7 is —$NH(R^{11})$; or, alternatively, R^7 and R^8 join to form a 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinoline or 3,4-dihydroquinolin-2(1H)-one ring, wherein said ring is optionally substituted with from 1 to 4 R^9 groups;

each R^9 is independently selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, C_{1-6} haloalkyl, C_{1-6}